

THE
HISTORY
OF

Benducar the Great,

Prime Minister to *Muley Mahomet*
and *Muley Moluch*, Emperors
of *Morocco*.

Giving an Account of his unaccountable Rise
from a private Station to the greatest
Dignities in that Empire; the Steps by
which he rose; the Places he enjoy'd; his
Behaviour therein; his two Disgraces, and
his last and highest Exaltation.

Dedicated to the Right Honourable
WILLIAM PULTENET, Esq;

L O N D O N :

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THE HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE CITY
TO THE FALL OF THE WESTERN EMPIRE

BY
G. L. GARDNER

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FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE CITY
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To the Right Honourable

William Pulteney, Esq;

S I R,



S the constant End
of your Labours
has been to detect
the Mismanage-
ment of all Ministers, who
have directly or indirectly

iv D E D I C A T I O N.

endeavoured to incroach upon the Liberty of the Subject, I have often wondered that amidst the *Alberoni's*, *Coscia's* and *Menzikoff's*, you never took notice of the infamous *Benducar*, and can impute it only to your not having met with his History.

Wherefore as the Picture of Vice is sometimes a greater Incitement to Mankind to amend their Lives than the greatest Exhortations to Virtue, I thought it would not be amiss if I communicated some Memoirs of
of

DEDICATION. v

of that Infidel to Posterity, as I've translated them from the original *Moorish*, that they might serve as a Beacon, to prevent others from splitting upon the same Rock.

Having resolved upon this Undertaking, my first Thought was to seek out a Patron who might *skreen* me from the malicious *Innuendo's* and Misrepresentations of *Lyons*, *Pensioners* and *Informers*; and who could more properly occur to me than you, Sir, who have

vi DEDICATION

have always declared War
against such Agents of all
Factotums.

I don't in the least doubt,
but that some of the *Sycophants*
above-mentioned, will
be ready, in order to make
their Court to their Patron,
to interpret this as a Pa-
rallel reflecting upon some
Persons now living; but be
it known to such *Pick-thanks*,
that the Law of *England* does
not allow them to put an in-
vidious Construction upon
another Man's meaning, in
order to deprive him of the
most

DEDICATION. vii

most invaluable Blessing of Life, Liberty. No, thank Heaven, and the noble Struggles of such indefatigable Patriots as your self, Sir, we as yet enjoy a free Constitution, and I am sure it will not be for want of Mr. *Pulteney's* best Endeavours, if he does not transmit it down to the latest Posterity as free as he found it.

I hope therefore, Sir, you will vouchsafe this your Acceptance, for as long as *annual Treaties, peaceable Armaments,*

viii DEDICATION.

ments, and fruitless Negotiations are in fashion, the Name of *Benducar* will be immortal. I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient and

most humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.



THE
HISTORY
OF
BENDUCAR.



WHEN any Man has once distinguished himself eminently either for uncommon Virtues or flagrant Vices, whether he is a great Knave, or a great Hero, we generally find that some Author or other thinks it worth his while to transmit his Life and Transactions down to
B Poste.

Posterity. Thus *Oliver Cromwell* and *Massaniello* have found a Place in History as well as *Harry the Fifth of England*, or *Henry the Fourth of France*; nay, even *Jonathan Wild* and *Jack Sheperd* have had their Exploits and Atchievements published, as well as *Col. Francisco*, *Mrs. Oldfield*, and *Sally Salisbury*, of glorious Memory.

The Lives of *Mr. Robert Lynn* and a *Norfolk Dumpling* have likewise made their Appearance in print, and they have met with a very favourable Reception, although they were the arrantest Trifles, and most insignificant Ribaldry that were imposed upon the Town; and I don't at all Despair but, as a *Pudding* is by all allowed to be greatly superior as well as of a nobler and antienter Family than any *Dumpling*, of what County soever, some ingenious

genious Writer will compile its Memoirs for the Advantage and Emolument of the Publick, and it is to be hoped that the Town will encourage such a useful Undertaking by a generous Subscription.

Thus much being premised with Relation to Lives in general, I flatter myself that the following Sheets will meet with universal Approbation, especially as they contain an authentick Account of a Person who made as bright a Figure in History as any Man of his Age, a Person whose Name will never be forgotten in the Empire of *Morocco* as long as *Bribery* and *Corruption*, which he had the Merit of introducing openly amongst them, reigns in that Nation.

To begin then; *Benducar*, for that is the Name of our Hero, was born in the North of *Mo-*
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rocco,

rocco, of an antient Family, but not overstocked with the Gifts of Fortune, his whole paternal Estate not amounting to more than Five hundred Pounds *per Annum*, *English* Money, his Father having been obliged for some Reasons to sell an Estate which he had in another Part of the Empire.

His Father, who was a Gentleman of a very fair Character, had interest enough amongst his Countrymen, notwithstanding the smallness of his Estate, to be chosen by them oftentimes to sit in the grand Assembly of the Nation, an Assembly not much unlike our *English* House of Commons; it were to be wish'd his Son, who had the luck to succeed him in that Assembly, had maintained as fair a Character as his Father did; but of that hereafter.

In

In his Childhood he discovered a great Disposition to Learning, accordingly he was put to one of the famous Schools in that Country, where he made a considerable Progress, but above all, he had an admirable Genius for Arithmetick, and his Proficiency in that Study proved in the Course of his Life of infinite Advantage to him, as it enabled him to contrive abundance of Schemes for *his own Interest*, a Point he always kept in View, how much soever he neglect *that of the Publick*. But the People in that Age, as well as at present, had the Wit to prefer the taking Care of themselves to that of employing their Labours for the good of their Country, and the Courtiers and Statesmen of *Morocco*, whatever Notion we may have of their Unpoliteness, were well enough bred, to understand the force of a *feeling* Argument

ment better than all the Rhetorick in the Universe, and the *leading Men* of the *Moors*, no Disparagement to ourselves, had as *itching Palms* as any Gentlemen in *Great Britain*.

To return then to *Benducar*; he had the good Fortune, as I observed above, to succeed his Father in the grand Assembly of the Empire, where he had not been long before he distinguished himself for an admirable Volubility of Tongue, which made him soon remarked in that Assembly, and was his first Step to Preferment, inasmuch as by that means he quickly became one of the leading Men amongst the Members who compose it, and they never fail of Promotion if they happen luckily to be of the Side of that Party which is uppermost; for *Morocco* was at that time as
much

much divided into Factions, as *England* has been since.

Benducar, we may be sure, had the Wit to be of the prevailing Party; and accordingly it was not very long before he reap'd the Fruits of it, by being made *Ej-fendi* of the Army, a Post that answers to our Secretary at War.

Here he began to display those Talents for which he was afterwards so deservedly famous; I mean, as his paternal Estate was very small, he made all the hast to inlarge it *Quoquo pacto*. But in his Endeavours herein, he met with a Misfortune which is very common to those who make hast to be rich, that is, he made *more hast than good speed*; and put in Practice the Alderman's Advice to his Son; *My Son, get Money HONESTLY if you can, but whatever you do get Money*. For being intirely
intent

intent upon aggrandizing his Family, he had the Misfortune of falling under the Suspicion of *peculation* or *imbezzling the publick Treasure*; accordingly, he was called to an Account for it, and not giving such satisfactory Answers as were thought sufficient to clear him in the Opinion of his Judges, was sent Prisoner to the Castle of *Alcazar*, (a Prison much the same as the *Tower* in *London*) where he continued till the Assembly which had committed him broke up for that Year, when he was enlarged.

This put for that time an end to all his Prospects of Grandeur; for this happening in the Reign of the Empress *Fatima*, she being then disgusted with her Ministers, dismissed them all, and a new Set of Men came into play who were sworn Enemies to *Benducar*, and consequently left him no hopes of being re-instated whilst they were in Power.

Power. All he could do therefore during their being in favour, which was all the remainder of that Reign, was to distress them in their Administration, by opposing all their Measures, and to ridicule them in Libels and Ballads, wherein he not only took the greatest Liberties with them, but even with the Empress his Sovereign, for all he was pleased afterwards to exclaim so violently upon the same Usage being returned to him, when he again came in Power, and even punished the Offenders very severely. This shews that there are some Men who are for doing no Right, nor taking no Wrong.

To *Benducar's* great Comfort and Emolument, the Empress did not survive his Disgrace many Years, but dying almost suddenly, was succeeded in her Throne by a distant Relation, to whom she was herself no Well-wisher, and to

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whom

whom *Benducar* had made his court very early, having, as he pretended, been a Sufferer for his attachment to his Family.

He had indeed the Art to insinuate, and even to get it believed by a great many of his own Party, that the Proceedings of the late Ministry, as they were then called, against him, had been occasioned by his having distinguished himself by his Zeal for the Monarch who then possessed the Throne, and that they had no manner of Grounds for imputing to him those Misdemeanours and Imbezements whereof they accused, and for which they punished him: He had, I say, the Art to insinuate this, and even the good Luck to get it believed at that time; but his Behaviour afterwards, in many other Posts of greater Importance and Profit, has made it thought that he was not only not
falsly

faſtly accuſed, but even that he deſerved a much ſeverer Chaiſement than a gentle Confinement, aye, even the greateſt the Law could inflict. For it was viſible and evident to the meaneſt impartial Judge, that ſuch immense Riches as he had amaſſed in the compaſs of a few Years, could never have been accumulated but by the Oppreſſion and Plunder of the Publick.

But to proceed, theſe Inſinuations were ſo effectual, that ſoon after the Advancement of *Muley Mahomet*, for that was the Emperor's Name, to the Throne, *Ben-ducar*, as a recompence for his Services, was promoted to a Poſt that was yet more beneficial than the former, which was Pay-maſter to the Forces; this was on the 29th of *September*, in a few Weeks after *Muley Mahomet*, of immortal Memory, came to the Realm; two Days after which he was admitted

into that Monarch's grand Council, an Honour which the greatest Grandees are proud to accept, being equivalent to our Privy Council.

In this Employment he continued till the 5th of *July*, in the 2d Year of *Muley Mahomet's* Reign, when he was sworn into the Office of *Reis Effendi*, a Place of great Honour and Dignity, answering to one of our Principal Secretaries of State.

One would have thought that his Disgrace might have been as yet so fresh in his Memory, that the fear thereof would have deterred him from returning to his former Courses; and that the dread of being reduced again to his pristine Necessity from which he was so lately recovered, (for his Paternal Estate had been mortgaged for as much as it was worth) would have terrified him
so

so far that he would never again have run the same Venture ; but like the *Cat*, who was turned into a *Woman*, he loved the old Sport still too well to give it over, and could not forbear *catching of Mice* : In short, he would take no warning.

'Tis true indeed, he imagined himself not so much in danger as before, but thought he stood upon a much better Foundation, his Enemies being too much crushed, too much under his Feet, to give him any great Uneasiness or Apprehensions for the future, so that he might take his full Swing : But in order to understand this Period of his History, it will be necessary to go back some Years to the Reign of the Empress *Fatima's* Father, and inform the Reader of the State of the Empire of *Morocco* about that time.

In

In the Beginning then of the Reign of *Mustapha*, the Empress *Fatima's* Father, that Prince, who had been abroad in the *Persian* Court, and had secretly imbibed all the erroneous Principles of the *Persians*, even so far as to be a Zealot for that Sect, began by degrees to debauch secretly the Opinions of his chief Courtiers, with intent to gain them over to his Interest so far as to espouse his Cause. This done, he openly attempted Innovations in the Established Religion, and to the End that he might give the finishing Stroke to *Mahometanism*, consented to impose a Son upon the People, who was to be educated a Biggot in the Sect of *Haly*, to the Prejudice of his two Daughters, who were strict *Mahometans*. For this Imposture, and for many other Acts of Oppression, the *Moors*, being at last exasperated to the highest

highest degree, resolved to revolt, and by the assistance of Prince *Ismael*, who had married *Zara*, *Mustapha*'s eldest Daughter, shook off the Yoke, drove out *Mustapha*, with his pretended Son, and chose *Ismael* Emperor in his Room.

The Bounds of this Treatise are too narrow to give a just *Encomium* of this Prince ; let it suffice that the *Good of his Subjects* was the Point he kept always in View, and from which he never deviated ; that he always made the Laws of the *Moors* the Rule of his Government during his whole Reign ; and in order to preserve their Liberties to them, even after his demise, (which he knew was impossible if ever *Mustapha*, or his supposed Son, should possess the Throne) that he caused a Law to be made, with the joint Consent of the States of the Empire, whereby, if himself, his Consort, and her

her Sister *Fatima* should die without Issue, the Crown was settled upon *Muley Mahomet* and his Heirs; this done, to prevent this Law's ever being abrogated, he made it High Treason to propose the repealing it.

He did not live long after this glorious Act, and during his Reign all *Mustapha's* attempts to recover his Kingdom proved abortive; *Ismael* by his Prudence not leaving him the least hopes of Success. The Case was the same towards the Beginning of *Fatima's* Reign; whether it was owing to the Discretion of her Consort, or the Goodness of her Ministry, we won't pretend to determine; but some few Years before her demise, as this Empress was but a weak Woman, and was easily to be induced to any thing under the Mask of Religion, her then Ministers, who had no hopes of enjoying their Places under

under *Muley Mahomet*, found the means to persuade her, (by the help of some crafty and designing Ministers of the *Mosque*) that *Mustapha's* supposed Son was her real Brother, and that it was a most enormous and damnable Sin to keep the Crown to his Prejudice. Some say, they had even perverted her so far that she secretly embraced the *Persian Sect*.

However that was, this is certain at least, that they had so firmly possessed her with the belief of his Legitimacy, that if she did not design to have resigned the Throne to him during her Life, she at least intended to have secured it for him after her decease: This she would have done from a double Motive; first, to have made Compensation for the Sin she imagined she had committed in keeping the Crown from him; and, secondly, which was not per-

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haps

haps the least powerful Motive, to have been revenged on *Muley Mahomet*, who coming over to her Father's Court, with design to make his Addresses to her; but not finding her to his Taste, returned and left that Design unaccomplished; an Affront no Woman ever yet pardoned.

The Ministry finding the Empress thus brought to the Disposition wherein they had long ardently wished her, concerted their Measures accordingly, new modelling the Army, and disposing of no Places or Employments but to such as they thought well affected to their Cause; but before Things were ripe for Execution, all their Projects were knocked on the Head by the unforeseen Death of the Empress, who, as 'twas thought, a little before her decease repented her having engaged so far with them in their destructive Schemes,
the

the Grief whereof, and more especially the Shame of having a Letter she had written to the supposed *Mustapha* betrayed to *Muley Mahomet*, contributed not a little to the hastening her *Exit*.

Tho' *their Projects*, as I observed before, were thus disconcerted, and they were all displaced immediately after *Muley Mahomet's* peaceable Accession to the Empire, yet were they not altogether without hopes of succeeding, as appeared in the first Year of *Muley Mahomet's* Reign, when a formidable Rebellion broke out in the North of *Morocco*, in favour of the pretended *Mustapha*.

But this Insurrection being happily quelled, and the Heads of the Rebels either killed, executed or forced to fly, amongst which latter were the Heads of the former Ministry, who were *Benducar's* most powerful Enemies, it served

only to confirm *Muley Mahomet* and his Family in the Possession of the Throne, and if not quite to extinguish all Parties for the future, at least to extinguish them so far that they were never afterwards able to make Head.

Things were in this Posture when *Benducar* came again into Play ; wherefore imagining himself more firmly settled, having, as he thought, no Opposition to fear, and having besides Places of greater Value, with several profitable Employments under him in his Gift, he began to display his Talents to greater Advantage than ever ; don't let the Reader mistake me, I mean with greater Advantage to himself and Family, not to the Publick, for he was above that foolish, old fashioned Principle of preferring the Interest of his Country to his own.

And

And first then, like the *Great Turk*, there was no approaching to him, if you *expected* a favourable *Reception*, without a handsome *Present*; for his Way of bestowing *Preferment* was not on consideration of the Candidates Abilities, but the Weight of his Offering, that is, his Purse, which was with him the only valuable Consideration in a *literal Sense*,

Quid non Regina pecunia donat ?

according to the *Poet*. 'Tis true, to save Appearances, and that he might not be charged with *Corruption*, or at least that it might not be proved upon him, for as to the Charge, without it could be proved he valued it not, but would laugh it off with matchless Front, let Circumstances be ever so strong against him: However, I say, he never received a *Present*, or in plain *English*, a *Bribe* himself; but

but then he had a favourite *MAN*, whom we shall call *Hamet*, thro' whose Hands all Offerings were *conveyed* to his *Shrine*; and that Petitioner who should have *been* to have *appeared* empty-handed *before Hamet*, might *depend* of *meeting* with no Success in his Petition, *even* tho' he had perhaps before *received* almost a Promise that it should be granted from *Benducar* himself.

However, good *Man*, he had always some evasion, some subterfuge ready, it was bestowed, or at least promised *before* by *Muley Mahomet* himself, and he knew nothing of the Matter; but the *next time*, Sir, *the next time*, you may *depend* upon me. And should the poor *deluded Wretch* have solicited another time, and another, *ad infinitum*, unless *Hamet* and he had first an Understanding, he would not have fared a jot *the better*.

But

But if any one had a right Understanding with *Hamet*, that is *Benducar*, or was so happy as to be allied to him, the Case was not the same: No, I'll say that for him, he was in no danger of a Disappointment, *even* tho' the thing he *desired* had *been* previously and solemnly promised by *Muley Mahomet* himself, of which I can't help giving *here* two remarkable Instances.

The first was this: As the Emperor *Muley Mahomet*, though of the Blood-Royal of *Morocco*, was not himself a *Moor* by Birth, but was born and *resided* at the Court of *Tunis* in the *Levant*; a noble *Fleet* was sent on the *demise* of the Empress *Fatima*, to conduct and convoy him to the Empire of *Morocco*. On his landing safe *there*, that Emperor, in Gratitude to the Captain of the Galley on board which he came himself, and
which

which was particularly appointed and accordingly adorned for the *Reception of Princes*, solemnly promised him that he should always have the Command of that Galley as long as he reigned. Now as this was a very *beneficial* Command, *Ibrahim*, a Brother of *Benducar's*, who had *been* bred to the Sea, was infinitely desirous of that Ship; but as oft as *Benducar* applied to the Emperor about it, in behalf of his Brother, he stopt his Mouth with telling him that he had given his Imperial Word *never* to discard the then Captain *Machmut Bassa*, for that was his Name, as long as he lived.

What could he do after such an Answer, and such a positive Denial? However, he was resolved his Brother should not be baulked; wherefore he bethought himself of a Stratagem worthy of himself, or *even* of the most crafty and design-

defigning *Jesuit*, to make his Master break his Word, and yet be innocent of the Fraud. This was: He caused the Galley to be *ordered* into Dock, on *pretence* of refitting, and making some Alterations; which done, he has her launched a-new, and new named the *Fatima*, (for she was before called the *Muley*) and under that Name begs the Command of her from the Emperor for his Brother, and he readily granted him his Request.

How he came off with the Emperor when this Cheat and Imposition upon him came to be known, or with what *front* he could face his Royal Master, is not material to my present Purpose; wherefore I shall proceed to the second Instance, which was this:

Ismael, when the Law was passed to settle the Succession in *Mu-*
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ley

ley Mahomet's Family, had wisely provided, as they were Foreigners, that it should not be in their Power to bestow any Places or Employments in the Empire of *Morocco* upon their Countrymen. Now, as it was natural for them to be desirous of rewarding those Officers who had *served* them faithfully in the Court of *Tunis*, it was customary to give them the disposal of some Places of Profit, with liberty to make the best Advantage they could thereof.

One of these Places then happening to fall to the Share of *Achmet*, one of the Emperor's Countrymen, to dispose of; but it happening to be immediately under *Benducar* himself, he had taken care to get one of his Sons admitted into it past a possibility of being removed, it being for Life, and when *Achmet* came to complain thereof, and to desire at least some

some Compensation, *Benducar* told him frankly, that he thought it too good for any rascally *Tunis Rover* to dispose of, and had *therefore bestowed* it on his own Son, *neither* would he allow him a Farthing out of the Profits of it. This Expression was somewhat the more extraordinary, inasmuch as *Achmet* was of the same Country as the Emperor his Master, but that was of no weight with *Benducar*.

"I would be almost endless to enumerate all his Tricks and Rogueries when in Power; but of that more *hereafter*. Proceed we now to give some Account of his second Downfall. He had now enjoyed his Places some Years, and not dreaming of any Danger or Opposition, thought he might play all his Pranks at least *unpunished* if not *unobserved*; and indeed so he might for any hurt which his

quondam Enemies could have done him, they being equally *destitute* of Power and Creedit.

I should *before this* have informed my *Readers* that *Benducar*, besides having an insatiable Avarice, was likewise Master of an *unmeasurable* Ambition; that, like *Pompey the Great*, he was so far from being able to bear a Superior, that he could not even suffer any Equal, I mean if it was in his Power to help it, for *otherwise* he could truckle like any Spaniel to gain his Point. But if he was guilty of the same Vice with the famous *Pompey*, he had none of those shining Virtues which made that great unfortunate Man the darling of the *Roman People*. No, he was a perfect contrast of contrary Characters, he was insolent and abject, avaritious and profuse; in short, a *perfect* Medley: Let any one judge what sort of a Figure
such

such a Man must make in the Eyes of his Co-temporaries : But to *leave* this Digression.

I observed before that he was quickly *preferred* after *Muley Mahomet's* Advancement to the Throne ; but this was not so much upon the Score of any Merit of his own, as on account of his having had the good Luck to contract an Intimacy (I can't call it a *Friendship*, for he was incapable of that social Virtue) with some of the leading Men of his own Party, such as *Ibrahim* and *Osmin*. It was by the *Interest* of *these* great Men he was promoted ; they continually eccho his Sufferings on his Account in the Emperor's Ears, and gave him no rest till he had *preferred* him ; to them then he owed all his Advancement.

But now *observe* his Gratitude ; no sooner did he find himself, as he thought, firmly settled, but he
ender-

endeavoured to supplant his *Bene-
factors*. To this end, as he had
now by their means *free* access to
the Emperor, and had gained his
Ear, by *pretending* the *greatest* at-
tachment to him and his Family,
and the *greatest* Zeal for his *Ser-
vice*, he constantly *misrepresented*
all their Actions, giving the worst
of Colours to the purest Inten-
tions.

But, as it *happened*, he could
not do this so *secretly* but *Ibrahim*
and *Osmin* were informed *thereof*;
and to add to his Misfortune, the
Emperor himself was too well con-
vinced of their Integrity to listen
to his *malicious* and *treacherous*
Insinuations. However, not to *re-
sent* such heinous Ingratitude would
have been downright Stupidity in
them, wherefore *they* resolved to
turn his own Cannon upon him,
and to pick a hole in his Coat as-
soon as possible.

Herein

Herein *they met* with no great Difficulty ; for *they* had watched his Conduct but a very short time, *before they received* such an ample Account of many notorious Malversations and *other* Misdemeanours, as gave *them* a large Field and abundant Scope to *re-taliate* the Injuries he had offered *them* unprovoked, and *were more* than sufficient to induce the Emperor instantly to discard him with disgrace, without *leaving* him the *least reasonable* room to hope *ever* again to be re-instated in his favour.

Behold him now stript of all Honours, with the Mortification of knowing that he *owed* it all to his own *restless treacherous Temper*, and to his not knowing when he was well. His Friends by whom he was *before* raised were *now* become his Enemies, and himself the Scorn of those by whom he was *before*

before revered: He was Crest fallen, and abject enough to have sued to those whom he would have undermined; but as a Man of a *great Soul* is a long time *before* he will take a Resolution, so when it is once taken he is not again to be moved; this he knew was the *Temper* of *Ibrahim* and *Osmin*; wherefore, like the *fallen Angels*, knowing he could hope for no Pardon, he thought he would at least *indulge* his Malice, in taking all the *Revenge* that lay in his Power.

Behold him then turned Male-content, flying in the face of his Royal Master, and distressing him, (as much as in him lay) by opposing all the Measures proposed by his Ministers in the grand Assembly of the Nation for the Welfare of the Publick, *even those very* Measures which he had *before* approved; 'tis true it was without

without Success, but that was no thanks to his *Endeavours*. He hoped by this means to have made it necessary for them to have been reconciled to him, but *Ibrahim* and *Osmin* both baffled and despised him; and it is very certain, that as long as they had lived, especially the latter, who was a Man of the greatest Genius and Integrity, he never more would have had the least Share in the Administration.

Not but that there happened an Accident about this time which seemed to flatter him with some hopes; which was, that there happened to be an unfortunate Misunderstanding between the Emperor and the Prince his Son, and the Prince's Party joining in the Grand Assembly with the Faction of the *Malecontents* (as there are always *Malecontents* in all Governments) made them pretty numerous,

merous, and as *Benducar* was at the Head of *these* and the most active amongst *them*, it gave him an Air of *somewhat* more Importance. But tho' Numbers might make his Opposition appear more considerable, and might make him value himself *thereupon*, they did him no *real Service*, for he was constantly *defeated* in all his Designs.

In short, he had been *ruined* to all Intents and Purposes, had it not *been* for a deplorable *Scene* of *Iniquity* that was acted some few Years afterwards ; a Scene, which tho' it proved an almost *general* and *heavy* Curse to all the Nation, yet I question whether it proved a *greater* Curse in any of its more immediate Effects, as bad as they were, then as it was the means of making a Reconciliation with *Benducar* necessary, and introducing him again upon the Stage.

Stage. To clear up this Point of History, it will be requisite to give the Reader some Idea of the nature of the *Moorish* Government, and set the *Liberties* and *Privileges* of that *People* in a true light.

The *Moors* then at that time were a generous, free and wealthy *People*; their *Liberties* and *Properties* were as well secured to them, as *Rights* and *Privileges* of the Emperor himself; and if the Emperor had an Imperial *Revenue*, which was assigned him annually by the Nation for the Maintenance of his Dignity and the Preservation of the State, the private *Moors* on the other hand had their Lands and their Money, which I call their *Properties*, the Invasion of which, to the Prejudice even of the meanest Subject, would not have been looked upon as less

beinous than an Ineroachment upon the Royal Prerogative.

As the Emperor had a Place into which his *Revenues* were paid, which I shall call the *Royal Exchequer* or *Treasury*, so the People had a Fund *wherein* they deposited their superfluous Money, which I shall call the *National Treasury*. In this Fund almost the whole collective Body of the *People* was concerned, every Man according to his Ability, from the greatest Grandee to the Artizan; the Money lodged therein being reckoned as safe as in every Man's own Hand. This *National Treasury* was under the Direction or Inspection of about thirty Men annually chosen, who had a Power to manage it, and traffick with it, as it should be judged by them most for the Benefit and Advantage of the Community to whom it belonged.

Now

Now it happened about the Seventh Year of *Muley Mahomet's* Reign, that the Persons who had then the Direction of this *National Treasury* combined together to bubble the *Proprietors* not only of the Money then lodged in their Hands, but under pretence of an infinite Profit that would accrue from *thence* to *entice* them to lodge yet *greater* Sums with them, which Fraud they carried on so *successfully*, that *they* had *engrossed* almost all the current Money of the Nation, before the Cheat was discovered, when the *poor deluded Proprietors* found that they had converted nine Parts in ten of their Money to their own use.

'Twould be impossible to express the *Rage of the People* at the discovery of this *execrable Imbezement*; Madness hardly comes up to it; in short, it was so great that a total subversion of the Government

vernment was to be *feared*, unless some Way could be found out to appease the Minds of the People, which demanded no less than the *Heads* of all *Persons* concerned in this *unexampled Villany*. Now, to add to *this Misfortune*, it happened that *some* who had the Inspection of the *Royal Treasury* were not altogether unsuspected of being *accessary* indirectly to this Cheat.

Amongst these was *Ibrahim*, whose Hands were imagined not to be quite clear; wherefore as it was known that the Meeting of the *grand Assembly of the Nation* was impatiently expected in order to bring the Guilty to condign Punishment; and as many Members of that Assembly had been great Sufferers in this general *Calamity*, and would therefore in all probability join the *disaffected Party*, which would be thereby rendered

rendered the strongest, *Ibrahim* judged that the only Refuge left him was to gain over *Benducar*, who was then very popular, to his Interest, thereby to skreen himself from the Resentment of an injured People.

This was no hard Matter for *Ibrahim* to effect; *Benducar* had long in secret openly wished for an Opportunity of re-instating himself with him; but this as long as *Osmin* lived was impracticable; for he would have kept *Ibrahim* from it, as knowing *Benducar* too well, and consequently abhorring to be concerned with upon any Terms; but, alas! that great, that incorrupt Minister was no more, he did not long survive the breaking out of that iniquitous Scene which involved so many thousand Families in Ruin. Assoon therefore as *Ibrahim* made the first Overtures of a Reconciliation to *Benducar*, with a Promise
of

of re-instating him in the Emperor's favour, and procuring him a better Place than he had yet enjoyed, on Condition of his finding a Method to skreen him and his thirty Accomplices from the Fury of the Populace, he greedily accepted the Terms.

Behold him then soon after made *Testardar*, *Creui Effendi*, and *Reis Creunedo*, three Places of much the same Nature as our Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the *Exchequer*, and first Commissioner of the Treasury. This was an Exaltation he had not dared to promise himself before, even when his Hopes were most sanguine; it is not to be wondered at therefore if this sudden and unexpected turn of Fortune in some measure turned his Brain, as it is by many thought it did; and indeed whoever will consider his inconsistent Behaviour ever afterwards, his asserting a thing positively one Day,

Day, and denying it as positively the next ; what Patch-work he made in all his Undertakings ; and what chimerical *Expedients* he had recourse to when pressed upon, will be apt to imagine them not very much mistaken in their Opinion.

Being thus settled, the first Instance he gave of his Abilities was, that, in order to sooth *the Rage of the People*, with whom he had some Credit, and at the same time to skreen *Ibrahim* and his Accomplices, (who by the bye, to use a vulgar Expression, were thought *to come down very handsomely* to him on that Account) he promised them that they should have ample and speedy Justice on all *the Offenders* as soon as *the Assembly* met ; though that was not in the least his Intention.

But this he did only to gain time, for it was, and has been ever since his constant Maxim, and the Rule

by which he has acted on all Occasions, *That he that gains Time gains every Thing.* And indeed I must own on this Occasion he was somewhat in the right; for as no Extremes can last long, the *Popular Rage*, being stopt in its first Fury, subsided like the Sea after a Storm when the Wind is abated: However, it was much doubted *whether* all his Cunning, for we can call it no better, would have saved *Ibrahim*, if he had not died very opportunely to save his own Bacon, that is his Estate; for before the *People* could be quite appeased, *they* were all forced to refund some of their ill-gotten *Treasure*, tho' 'twas believed not above a Tythe of what *they* had drained from the Publick, for after all was over *they* most of them bought their own Estates again.

Fortune now seemed to smile on *Benducar* on all sides; for *Ibrahim*
and

and *Osmin* being dead, he not only retained all his former Places, but was made Prime Minister in their stead, for whilst they lived that high Office was *discharged* by them, and it must be owned with Honour, and great Ability; for *Osmin* never had the least Blemish cast upon his Reputation, and *Ibrahim*, bating that last Slip, and who is absolutely without *Failings*, never had the least Stain upon his *Character*. Thus much is certain, that his Guilt could not be very great, since he left but a very moderate Estate behind *him*; then to his Praise be it spoken, he was a Man of uncommon Abilities, very generous, a great encourager of Learning in others, and a Man of profound Learning himself; an Accomplishment very extraordinary in a Person of his Quality, for he was one of the *Moorish* Grandees: But return we to *Benducar*.

We are now to look upon him as in the *Zenith* of his Glory, and the Meridian of his Splendor ; for (bathing some titular Honours which were bestowed upon him a few Years afterwards, as the Privilege of tying his *Turban* with a red or a blue Ribbon, which amongst the *Moors* is much like some of our Orders of Knighthood) he could never arrive at a greater Degree of Power, or, which was as acceptable to him, he could never enjoy Places of greater Profit.

It was generally believed that the Emperor did not bestow the Place of Prime Minister upon him on account of any Kindness he had for the Man, on the contrary, it was thought that he secretly hated and despised him ; but *Benducar* had by this time made himself necessary to him, by the great Sway he had in the grand Assembly of the Nation, without the Concurrence whereof,

whereof, according to the Constitution of the *Moors*, no Emperor could have any Supplies of Money, tho' upon never so urgent an Occasion.

To understand how he came by this great Sway, to which alone he owes his continuance in Power, it will be necessary to inform the Reader, that after *Benducar's* being called into the Administration this last time, being warned by his two former Disgraces, his first Care was how to secure himself a *Majority* in the aforesaid *Grand Assembly*; well knowing that whilst he could do that he could not be removed for the Reason abovementioned.

But as there were not Places sufficient to gratify all, and to make them Presents worth their Acceptance out of the Royal Treasury, proved too great a Burthen to the Crown, he bethought himself of two *Expedients* on which he valued himself not a little.

The first was, whereas there were several great Offices of Honour and Profit which used to be given to single Persons, and yet which being prudently divided might very well satisfy the Desires of six or seven, he very wisely puts these Offices in Commission, that is, parcels them out amongst six or seven of his Creatures with a suitable Allowance, always taking Care that they should be Members of the *Grand Assembly*. But this not yet proving sufficient to assure him a Majority of Dependants, he bethought himself of the second *Expedient*, which was this:

The blind Side of some Men is *Avarice*, in others it is *Vanity*; accordingly there were several Members of the *Grand Assembly* whose Estates being very large, *Benducar* could never

ver have gained them by any Offers he could have made of Places or Presents; but then they were not quite so against Titles and Honours; and as being promoted into the Order of the Grandees proved an irresistible Charm to some, so the Privilege of tying their Turban with a red String, (which was an old Invention first revived by *Benducar* to gratify his own Vanity) had no less Charms in the Eyes of others; so that by all these Means together he gained his Point.

Whilst we are upon this Article of a *Red String*, I can't forbear telling a merry Passage relating thereunto between *Benducar* and his Wife, which went current at that time for a truth. You must know that *Benducar* had but one Wife, of whom he was very fond, even to that degree that 'tis said he stood in awe of her, and was forced after having given himself abundance of *Airs* abroad, to truckle when he came home to her, if he hoped for any Peace.

On this very Day then that *Benducar* to indulge his Vanity had obtained the Privilege of tying his Turban with a red Ribbon, whereof he was very proud; his *Rib*, who had too much good Sense to approve of his foolish Vanity, bought a Ribbon of the same Colour, and against she expected her good Man at home ty'd it in the form of a Collar about the Neck of her favourite Lap-Dog. Her Spouse coming home, who likewise either in complaisance to his Wife, or to keep Peace, seemed always very fond of the Cur, he was surprized at the Novelty, and asked his Dear why she had tied that String about the Whelp's Neck? *I don't know*, replied his *Rib* very seriously, *but the Puppy would have a Red Ribbon, I think.* But

But to proceed, after *Benducar* had thus secured the main Point, his next care was, as usual, to aggrandize his Family; thus one Brother had a Place of 5000 Crowns a Year, another was sent abroad on *Embassies*, tho' no fitter for it than *Hob in the Country Wake for a Pimp*. A third, and that but a Brother-in-law, had a Place of 1000 Crowns a Year, and even a Brother's Brother-in-law must be sent an Envoy, tho' he could not have picked out a more unqualified Person in the whole Empire, as *Benducar* had like to have found to his Cost, for going drunk to the Court of a Prince of the Imperial Family, he affronted his Highness so grossly, that had not both *Muley Mahamet* and *Muley Moluch* been Princes of uncommon Goodness, they would have revenged it on *Benducar* and his whole House.

Neither did he forget his two Sons, for they had each of them handsome Employments, besides being Heirs to his exorbitant Estate, which during his Life-time was reckoned to be worth 12,000,000 Crowns, that is, about three Millions *Sterling*: Notwithstanding which, when at the Court of *Mequinez*, he kept no extraordinary Equipage, never having above two Servants in Livery, one whereof performed the Office of his *Valet-de-Chambre*.

If any one should be so curious to enquire how he had amassed so much Wealth, be it known he had two Ways: First, as he had the Royal Treasure at command, he had one infallible way to account for all the Deficiencies which he pleased to make in two Words, called *SECRET SERVICE*. Secondly, the National Treasury above-mentioned was subject to various Ebbs and Flows, so that what one

one could buy one Day for a hundred Crowns might next Day be worth one hundred and twenty, which depended in a great Measure from the Advices that came from Abroad of the good or ill Success of their Affairs. Now as *Benducar*, by virtue of his Post, had the earliest Intelligence, he could turn it to the best Account, and get 100,000 Crowns in one Morning.

But we cannot take leave of this extraordinary Minister, without taking Notice that he was the greatest *Master of Negotiations* that ever appeared in any Age or Country before or since; and every one knows that to be the Touch-stone of a Great Minister. Other Ministers have been contented with making one *Treaty* during the Course of a long Administration; and perhaps to their Shame that *Treaty* has subsisted many Years after their decease. But our Hero would clap you up two or three *Treaties* in a Season, and if none of them happened to do, was ready to *Patch* up two or three more in the same time. Inasmuch, that in his time a *Treaty* or *Congress* was looked upon as no more than the meeting to make a Party at *Whisk* or *Quadrille*; and indeed, by the Persons he employed, he seemed to look on them as requiring no greater Qualifications.

[Here the rest of the Manuscript was gnawed away, to the Author's great Sorrow.]

F I N I S.